

## Co-operative Creamery.

There are a few lines along which it is possible and profitable for farmers to co-operate. One of these is butter-making. The establishment of co-operative creameries, wherever the conditions justify, has been recommended frequently in the columns of this paper. They are successful enterprises when located in the midst of a sufficiently large cow population owned by dairymen with the true co-operative spirit, and placed in the hands of good business managers.

In an address on dairying, before the Ohio agricultural convention, Prof. W. I. Chamberlain said:

"And what of the butter business? I believe it is a better business [than the cheese business] far better if we can have really co-operative creameries with good centrifugal separators and the sharing of profits (or even the purchase of milk) on the strict basis of the Babcock test of butter fat. I lately visited a creamery at Centerville, Indiana, owned by stockholders who are chiefly patrons of the creamery. It is run on the profit-sharing and co-operative plan. It has averaged \$1 a hundred weight the entire past year for standard milk, and has returned the skimmed milk to the patrons besides. Careful tests show that 100 pounds of this separated milk are worth a bushel of shelled corn for feeding calves and growing pigs, if wisely fed. The December butter sold at the factory at 28 cents a pound, with no freight, commission or salesman's expenses. The creamery tests the milk of individual cows for patrons when desired, and thus lays the basis for individual selection and breeding from the best cows. And the fresh, sweet, separated milk, with oil-meal, middlings and clover, makes the very best food for raising the best heifer calves.

"The butter tests of different dairies in December run all the way from 3 1/2 to 5 per cent. of butter fat by the Babcock test. This shows the outrageous injustice and demoralizing effect of buying milk by the hundred weight, not tested. The churn test of salted butter sold averaged over 5 per cent. Thus the churn test runs from 12 to 20 per cent. above the Babcock, because the Babcock gives pure butter fat and the churn test gives actual salted butter, including water, salt and any other possible solids in the finished product. This is a wide margin, and in this creamery the patrons share the benefit of it. In many creameries the margin is kept very shady; the buying is by the Babcock test, the selling by the churn test, and the margin goes to the creamery owners, stockholders and officers, and not to the patrons. Wherever a creamery can be run like this, it seems to me the ideal plan. This particular one was built by a Chicago firm at a round price, but even this watered or loaded stock paid 7 per cent. dividend last year, and paid the patrons as stated. It has run nearly three years. The trouble in many places in the creamery work is of several sorts—too costly a plant, too many salaried men, unwise location and insufficient milk supply, petty quarrels and lack of confidence among stockholders and patrons, etc."—Farm and Fireside.

## Washington's Republic and Plutocracy.

The plutocrat, Mr. Depew, tells the world that Washington's republic is as little a thing of present fact as the republic of ancient Greece. Facts talk. The Populist party is a fact and its meaning is that since plutocracy has dared to place its hand at the throat of Washington's republic, it must suffer the consequences.

The penalty is simple—one word

covers it—death. But death to plutocracy involves anything but death to plutocrats. They have nearly forgotten the American idea of equality. It is but necessary that they come to a realization of equality in its full bearing, and their plutocracy is dead—and they, paradoxical as it may seem, become living Americans in the broad and brotherly sense.

To kill plutocracy, and to make free men of the plutocrats who are now the slaves of mammon through their worship of wealth, is all the Populist party intends to do, and this is but another way of putting what Mr. Peffer so ably says in the North American Review. But, bless us, there will be plenty of work left for coming generations, even if that thing were done to-morrow afternoon.—The Republic, New York.

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